

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 223

By Henry

A RESOLUTION To honor the memory of John Netherton of Nashville.

WHEREAS, The members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of John Netherton, renowned photographer and environmentalist; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Netherton was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, For more than 30 years, John Netherton worked as a nature photographer, providing countless images for use in museums and parks, including Radnor Lake, the Nashville Zoo, and the Tennessee Aquarium; a staunch environmental advocate, he championed the cause to protect Radnor Lake from development; and

WHEREAS, A native Tennessean, John Netherton was born in Nashville in 1948; and

WHEREAS, While working at Vanderbilt Medical Center as Director of Ophthalmic Photography from 1970 to 1984, Mr. Netherton's curiosity about, and interest in, nature led him to pursue a major in zoology at the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure at Vanderbilt, he devoted every spare moment to developing and honing his skills as a nature photographer, beginning to compile the group of

images that would become his first book, *Radnor Lake: Nashville's Walden*, published in 1984; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, Mr. Netherton began teaching nature photography, lecturing to many surrounding universities as well as civic and environmental groups on his personal philosophy of respect for nature and his commitment to recording it with passion and sensitivity; and

WHEREAS, In 1982, he founded Cumberland Valley Photographic Workshops, primarily a nature series, and taught workshops in many national parks and such areas as the Galapagos Islands, the Everglades, and Acadia National Park; after electing to discontinue his workshop series in the spring of 1987, he decided to devote himself full-time to his photographic projects; and

WHEREAS, A prolific author and photographer, John Netherton completed no less than 25 books including *Tennessee: A Homecoming*, *A Guide to Photography and the Smoky Mountains*, and *Tennessee Wonders: A Pictorial Guide to the Parks*; and his work was also published in numerous magazines, including *Audubon*, *National Wildlife*, and *Nikon World* and in *Sierra Club* and *National Geographic* books; in addition, he was a columnist and contributing editor for *Outdoor Photographer*; and

WHEREAS, As President of Friends of Radnor Lake, Mr. Netherton was involved in the addition of 28 acres of critical watershed properties, developed a documentary on the history of Radnor Lake, and helped raise funds to support environmental education at Radnor Lake; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Netherton's devotion to the protection of the environment resulted in his receipt of several prestigious awards and honors; and

WHEREAS, In 1998, he was the recipient of the Outstanding Tennessean Award, given to him at the State Capitol by Governor Don Sundquist, an award given in recognition for his work in the environmental community, specifically for his involvement with areas such as Radnor Lake; and

WHEREAS, In August of 1999, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation honored Mr. Netherton by naming "Netherton Overlook" at Radnor Lake State Natural Area; and

WHEREAS, He received the Wilderness Education Association's Paul Petzoldt Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Protection of Wilderness in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Netherton was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, John Netherton was the proud parent of Jason of Houston and Joshua and Erich, both of Atlanta; and

WHEREAS, He is also survived by his mother, Mary Fleming, of Ashland City; four sisters, Brenda Smith and Cathy Dugger, both of Mt. Juliet, and Shirley Noe and Mary Robinson, both of Ashland City; and

WHEREAS, John Netherton leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of John Netherton, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Netherton.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

